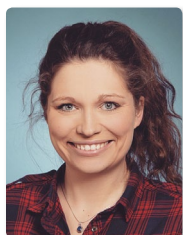




## Editorial

(By Julia Grimm, Policy Advisor – Climate Finance, Germanwatch)



Dear colleagues, dear readers,

As we embark on a new year, a year full of excitement and expectations in regards to climate change adaptation and resilience across the globe, we would like to share with you some updates from the Adaptation Fund NGO Network (AFN) as well as some key accomplishments achieved by civil society advocates over the last months.

Recently the Network coordination experienced some staff change. We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the previous Coordinator for all the fantastic work and genuine support she has brought to this Network. However, this was only possible due to your constant support. We hope you will provide the same support to the new coordinator on board!

In this newsletter, we share the main outcomes and decisions from the twenty-eighth meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB28) which was held in Bonn, Germany, from the 4<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> of October 2016. While funding decisions on adaptation projects were made as usual, the Board also further recognized the important role of civil society to improve the Fund's imple-

mentation and impacts, for instance in the area of knowledge management.

2017 is also a year of action! At the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP22) last November in Marrakech, world leaders concluded that addressing climate change requires real action from governments and all citizens of the world. While COP21 held the year before in Paris only acknowledged that the Adaptation Fund (AF) may serve the Paris Agreement, COP22 opened positive perspectives for the future of the Fund. In Marrakech, a significant amount of new financial pledges was made and key discussions about how the AF can serve the Agreement were held – given the fact that the Fund technically already serves the most vulnerable nations and communities affected by the adverse effects of climate change. During the last hours of COP22, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement decided that “the Adaptation Fund should serve the Paris Agreement” following subsequent decisions to be taken.

In Marrakech, AFN members actively participated in the conference debates and policy discussions alongside other civil society representatives. The Network hosted and contributed to several side events to share their experiences with others and call for more adaptive capacity. Network members interacted with relevant stakeholders and policy makers and lobbied for more institutional commitment as well as sustainable financial support to the adaptation sector. Members later convened for their annual strategy workshop where they engaged in intense discussions to evaluate the Network's progress, addressed challenges they have faced, and reflected on the vision of a third project phase.

In this edition of the newsletter we also want to share with you the main conclusions of the AFN evaluation that had been conducted in the last months of 2016. The final report of this evaluation demonstrates the relevant added value of the AFN for adaptation debates and country efforts to implement AF projects and national adaptation plans. Yet, it similarly stresses the need for concrete steps towards necessary improvements that aim at making the AFN even greater. Such steps include among others taking advantage of the increased influence of active members in order to exert more pressure vis-à-vis governments; operationalizing the process of transferring knowledge gained

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to other financial mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund; and strengthening the regional hubs as an important step in leveraging the AFN sustainability across regions and beyond.

2017 presents a window of opportunities that we can only take advantage of if we stay stronger together! With a rapidly growing membership and over 200 fellows, the AFN has the capacity to enhance its potential and accomplish even bigger results. However, we also might face many challenges during our journey. When that happens, we should remember one thing: it always seems impossible until it is done, to quote Nelson Mandela.

We wish you all a very exciting and prosperous New Year and we look forward to pursue our common mission of accompanying the most vulnerable to climate change!

## I. Stronger together: AFN membership grows over 200!

*(By Julia Grimm, Policy Advisor – Climate Finance, Germanwatch)*

The growth of the Network's associate members has been astounding. In its founding year, the Network registered four organisations. In the following year this number skyrocketed to forty-six - raising hopes regarding the future. Last year, the Ad-

aptation Fund NGO Network (AFN) registered its highest growth rates among associate members. It has now even surpassed the two hundred mark! All organisations and advocates involved in the Network activities at the national, regional and global levels can be proud of this achievement! This development exemplifies not only the achievements of the Network in the past, but also its promising impact in the future. The AFN was set up in 2011 with the aim to strengthen civil society in developing countries and to escort the execution of adaptation projects. As we look back, we can say with confidence that the AFN has made much progress on these goals and has elevated the importance of adaptation finance in the global climate discussions.

A significant part of this successful journey has been played by the network's associate members - NGOs from all over the world that have signed up to advocate together for the support of the most vulnerable communities. They form one strong voice for climate justice in local communities and act as cooperation partners for relevant stakeholders in the region. Most of all, they give the AFN enormous global and bottom-up legitimacy for the policy demands it articulates. Adaptation to climate change matters and civil society in developing countries is showing unprecedented interest in elevating the topic on the global agenda as well as in assuring that its implementation is focused on the most vulnerable communities and their specific needs. The network and its members are looking forward to 2017 being another year of growth for the AFN - growth of its members and growth of its impact.



Hundreds of delegates gather for a group photo at COP22. Photo by IISD, 2016



Citizens form a strong force to address global challenges. For adaptation to climate change, the views and ideas expressed by the communities, especially the most affected ones, have the power to influence policy decisions. Aware of that, the AFN has always explored ways to inform the maximum of people, to seek their support to the network activities and to engage them in realising a world where resilience to climate change impacts can become a everybody business and right.

The AFN is grateful to be able to count on members that are committed to the cause and are involved in dynamic interactions.

If you want to become a member of the AFN, you can complete an online membership form [here](#).

## II. Civil society calling for sustainable adaptive capacity for the most vulnerable at COP22

*(By Jean Paul Brice Affana, Policy Advisor – Climate Finance and Development, Germanwatch)*

The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22) which was held in Marrakesh, Morocco, during two intensive weeks of inclusive and well-attended negotiations ended on a positive note globally. After more than 110 Parties have ratified the Paris Agreement, enabling the entry into force of the treaty and providing a key political signal towards global commitment to climate action, the conference became a key milestone to define clear ways to ensure that governments' efforts thrive to limit global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius.

Civil society participation at COP22 was a success! Thousands of civil society representatives came together to hold their governments accountable in the global responses to climate change. One key focus area of civil society was climate change adaptation, in support to the many vulnerable communities and nations worldwide. In fact, CSOs were aware that COP22 marked a pivotal moment for the future of the Adaptation Fund which was put in a "complex" situation by Decision 1/CP.21 at COP21 in Paris which states that the Fund may serve the Paris Agreement subject to a process that was already underway and was part of the Marrakech event. Efforts therefore needed to be doubled as this critical yet positive step offered to move the process forward and finally achieve an institutional recognition of the AF as one of the entities entrusted with the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC which shall serve the Paris Agreement.

Civil society observers strongly used their voice and other existing formal engagement spaces at COP22 such as side events and statements to send out a vibrant message calling for sustainable adaptive capacity and financial resources from developed and developing countries. The Climate Vulnerable Forum which regroups more than 40 vulnerable nations convened

in Marrakech and released a [strong declaration](#) that urges increased prioritization of adaptation finance in order to safeguard lives, livelihoods, land, infrastructure, cultural heritage and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The Forum also called for continued scaling up of financial support in a balanced manner by ensuring a 50:50 balance for adaptation and mitigation.

Members of the AFN actively participated in the conference debates and policy discussions alongside other civil society representatives. They hosted and contributed to several side events with the objective to share learning and experiences with others. They interacted with relevant stakeholders and policy makers and lobbied for more institutional commitment and sustainable financing to the adaptation goals. Germanwatch on behalf of the Network was invited to join a panel during an event co-hosted by the Adaptation Fund Secretariat and the Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement Durable (IFDD). The event gathered countries, civil society and AF project implementers from French-speaking countries to discuss the Fund's role in implementing the Paris Agreement and its complementarity with other climate funds. The following day, the AFN hosted its own side event at the Blue Zone entitled "Adaptation Fund – What next?". This dialogue between a panel and participants reflected on the future of the AF and how it has contributed to national adaptation efforts. It also reflected on how past experiences can benefit its future prospects.

On 10<sup>th</sup> of November, ENDA - a Network member from Senegal - joined the panel on a [side event organised by the Adaptation Fund](#) that featured presentations on several AF projects that are having a positive impact on vulnerable communities and families through sustainable climate-resilient agricultural solutions. Alongside other speakers, ENDA shared experiences and successes in the development and implementation of the Senegal AF project which aimed at adaptation to sea rise and included a component to restore rice fields that had been abandoned due to saltwater intrusions. A few days later, JVE Benin another Network member convened a side event at the Green Zone to promote the important roles civil society can play in tracking the implementation of AF projects through citizen-led



Civil society making their voice heard at COP22. Photo by IISD, 2016



AFN member ENDA speaking at a AF side event at COP22. Photo by Adaptation Fund, 2016

monitoring and participation. The event invited a panel of CSO actors to take part in experience sharing and interactions with the audience.

All these efforts from civil society have not been in vain. As COP22 concluded on the 18th November, the first meeting of Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA1) was conducted; the NDC Partnership on capacity building was launched; and Parties to the UNFCCC pledged more than USD 81 million to the Adaptation Fund, allowing the Fund to surpass its fundraising goal for the year! These are just a few examples of what was realized at COP22. If one thing can be affirmed it would be that civil society representatives, including the AFN members, have intensively contributed to the success of the adaptation agenda at the conference. Their advocacy and lobbying activities have paid off.

### III. AFN members gathered for their annual Strategy Workshop in Marrakech

*(By Marc Beckmann, Volunteer, Germanwatch)*

Following a remarkable participation of some members of the AFN to COP22, the Network gathered all its [10 supported partners](#) from around the globe for their Strategy Workshop for 2016 which took place from 21–23 November in Marrakesh. The gathering served as an extraordinary opportunity for the members to foster connection ties and mutual collaboration among each other, and helped them to reflect on their work over the past

months, while discussing strategic priorities for the way ahead. As the host organisation of the initiative, Germanwatch organised the workshop using a participatory approach that enabled participants to contribute to dynamic discussions and interactions and share learning and country experiences resulting from national and global activities.

On the first day of the workshop, participants were briefed on the current political context around the adaptation agenda and the outcomes of COP22 which had just concluded, especially of the discussions held about the future of the Adaptation Fund. It was outlined that several governments and subnational governments have pledged financial resources to the Fund, enabling the institution to surpass its initial fundraising goal for 2016. Discussions afterwards focused on the global climate finance landscape and existing challenges at the national level that limit civil society engagement in a constructive manner. The next agenda item was the presentation of the main conclusions of the AFN evaluation conducted by an independent consultant using Senegal as a country example to assess the Network's national impacts. The key findings and recommendations from the report served as a substantial foundation to formulate probable activities from the Network to focus on in its third funding phase. Participants were in fact able to discuss achievements made during the second phase of the project which is ending, bearing in mind that the AFN continues to exist and to mobilise national civil society across the globe to engage in adaptation goals. Therefore they engaged in discussions about the types of activities they wished to realise. At the end of the day, the fruitful discussions generated tangible ideas about how to merge the watchdog role that civil society can play around AF projects with the promotion of a successful implementation of projects.





AFN members during a session at their annual workshop in Marrakech. Photo by AFN, 2016

The following day started with the same energy that the group reflected on the third phase of the project during a world café session. After further brainstorming on activities at the national, regional and international levels that the AFN could focus on in that new phase, new ideas emerged from the discussions at the different tables and were captured to feed the development process of a logical framework of the project proposal. The consultant hired to evaluate the Network's second funding phase facilitated this process, applying a valuable methodology that generated good inputs from everyone. Later in the

afternoon, time was used to further reflect on the effectiveness of these activities on the various levels, and to discuss potential challenges that may arise, especially during interactions with governments, AF project implementers and other relevant stakeholders. Network members then discussed the use of results generated by the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) tools developed by the AFN to monitor and track progress around AF projects. The session emphasized that information from M&E might be perceived sensitive in different national circumstances, and it was suggested to find alternative ways to share this sensitive data.

The Strategy Workshop continued with a partner counselling session which divided participants in small groups where they examined national work, identified critical situations, learned from each other's experiences and shared their views on how to have more impact on the community level from a civil society perspective. Germanwatch used all the new ideas to compile the logical framework proposal to nourish the development of a third funding phase proposal. The gathering ended up with an evaluation of the two days by the participants, and a discussion about the way forward.



Group photo of all participants at the AFN annual workshop. Photo by AFN, 2016



## IV. Evaluation of the AFN second phase turns up positive results and key recommendations

*(By Leona Keyl, Consultant for International Development )*

The Adaptation Fund NGO Network (AFN) was initiated in 2010. It aims at providing capacity support to a number of civil society organisations worldwide, while strengthening the international support structure to better assist vulnerable people in developing countries to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. The AFN has been funded since its inception by the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).

Building upon its first successful funding phase (2010-2013), the AF NGO Network received follow up funding for a second project phase, which was implemented from 2014 to 2016.

As the implementing organisation of the Network, Germanwatch commissioned an external evaluation to assess achievements and impacts of the AFN during its second funding phase, while building on the findings of a previous evaluation. The main focus this time was put on country level - based on the example of Senegal. However, impacts on Adaptation Fund (AF) Board and Secretariat, Project Management and international level have also been taken into account, albeit to a lesser extent.

Since Senegal represents the first country to have finalised its AF project, it was chosen to serve as case study for this evaluation. ENDA Energie, the AFN partner in Senegal, has cooperated with the Network since its foundation. As such, the organization has conducted several activities to monitor and track progress of the Senegalese AF-funded project, and supported the mobilization of civil society. The corresponding field visit to Senegal took place from 04–11 September 2016. The external evaluator, together with a colleague from Germanwatch, spent time with project staff of ENDA Energie in order to learn about the AFN partner's work and assess its impact on national level. For this purpose, the team collected data through face-to-face interviews with experts and representatives from the implementing institutions and governmental authorities involved in the AF-funded project in the communities of Saly and Joal, two of the three project sites – Rufisque, the third community, was not visited.

Main findings in the evaluation report conclude that the AFN contributed considerably to strengthening the focus of the most vulnerable. They show that civil society's critical voice has improved the transparency of the Adaptation Fund (AF) itself, and led to the institutionalisation of new processes and standards. The example of Senegal showed that the local partner organization namely ENDA Energie could increase its reputation and popularity on national level through its affiliation with the Network.



Fishermen at the AF project site in Saly, Senegal. Photo by Leona Keyl, 2016



Moreover, ENDA strengthened its own organizational capacities, while increasing institutional capacities of various national and local actors, and raising awareness on climate change adaptation among the local population. Although a certain degree of sustainability has been achieved, the implementation of operational plans by the Senegalese government as a result of this work is still missing. Furthermore, ENDA's general mandate in the country, their well-established relationship with the government, various stakeholders, and the local communities, make the organization an ideal partner to accompany AF projects with a critical and objective voice. However, mandates and responsibilities of the involved stakeholders have not been clearly defined, which compromised ENDA's role as an objective observer.

The evaluation report emphasises a number of key recommendations, including the need to better capitalise learning effects from the local level to feed international level debates in order for the AF Board, other countries, and donors, to learn from the experience and achievements of the Network. While the CSO Dialogue during AF Board meetings has proved to be an effective instrument for sharing civil society perspectives and provide input into AF policy processes, the evaluation suggests improving effectiveness of CSO participation by allowing civil society to intervene before decisions on the AF agenda points are taken.

It also proposes an intensive exchange between local AFN partners and other civil society organisations on national level,

which would increase transparency of the process and enhance the watchdog role of civil society. Beyond the national level engagement, regional cooperation should go beyond the exchange related to the modalities of the AF and existing regional strategies and further initiatives should be explored to create greater impacts.

## V. Adaptation Fund Board successfully concluded its 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting

*(By Jean Paul Brice Affana, Policy Advisor and Marc Beckmann, Volunteer, Germanwatch)*

Members of the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) convened for their 28<sup>th</sup> meeting from the 4<sup>th</sup> –7<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 in Bonn, Germany. The gathering saw the AF Secretariat reporting on its recent activities held since the last meeting, as well as a report from the Accreditation Panel sharing updates about their last get-together which led to an increase in the number of accredited entities, reaching now 42 comprising 24 National Implementing Entities (NIEs), 12 Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIEs) and 5 Regional Implementing Entity (RIEs). The UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Mrs. Patricia Espinosa, who was invited to dialogue with the Board, took the occasion to acknowledge the AF's achievements. She praised for the dissemination of the Fund's



A High-level Panel at COP22 on Africa facing climate change. Photo by Marc Beckmann, 2016

knowledge and experience to other relevant processes and wished that it can be recognised as an entity entrusted under the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC which can serve the Paris Agreement at COP22 later in the next month.

Members of the AFN who attended the meeting hosted a CSO Dialogue with the Board. First they reported on discussions held with some of the Board members during a technical expert dinner that was organized by the Network and aimed at exploring alternative sources of financing for the AF in the post Paris era. During the dialogue Network member Fundación Vida presented insights on the AFN monitoring and evaluation scorecards using a practical example in the context of the AF project in Honduras. Another network member, JVE Benin, shared civil society views and relevant lessons on the delays around the AF project preparation phase and how CSOs interact with national authorities on that issue. A representative of Transparency International (TI) presented views on the Ad-Hoc Complaint Handling Mechanism that the AF is planning to implement, and gave suggestion for further improvement. An interaction between the Board and CSOs followed, and some members welcomed suggestions from civil society and expressed their wish for further work on these ideas.

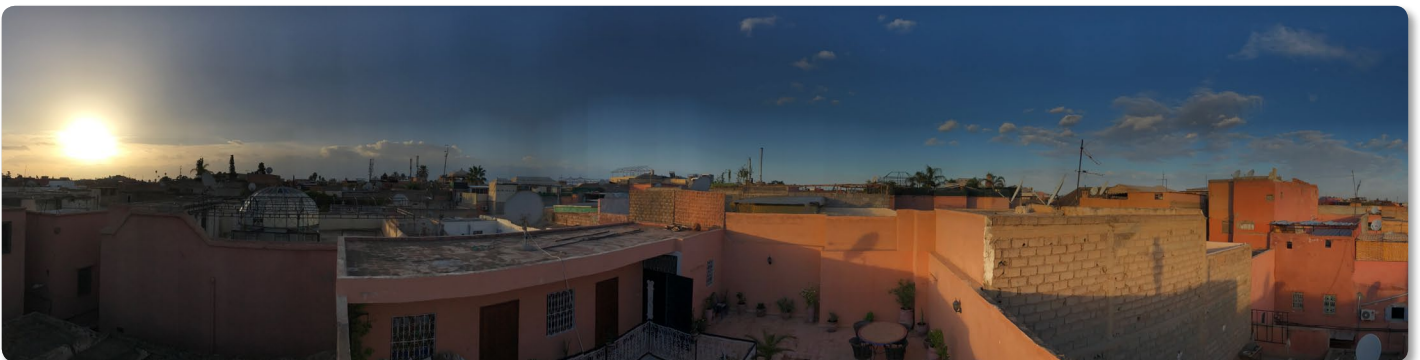
On the last day of AFB28, the Board resumed its discussion about potential linkages with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) after the AF Secretariat reported that an annual dialogue with the GCF is planned at their next Board meeting in December to discuss how to enhance complementarity and coherence between both funds. It was decided that representatives will be nominated to attend the dialogue and that discussions and consultations on the issue should continue and reported back at the following meeting. The Board considered funding proposals submitted by accredited implementing entities and approved two single-country proposals – one by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for India and one by UN-Habitat for Laos – out of 8 fully-developed ones submitted. In addition, 5 out of the 9 single-country concept notes were endorsed by the Board, including 2 small-size concept proposals from the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN). None of the 4 regional projects and programmes proposals was approved by the Board.



Women gathering at the AF project site in Saly, Senegal.  
Photo by Leona Keyl, 2016

The Board meeting was an occasion to discuss the implementation of the readiness programme and the communication and outreach activities conducted by the AF Secretariat which was encouraged to continue enhancing collaboration with the GCF on readiness activities, and to pursue efforts to raise the Fund profile during activities planned at COP22. Furthermore, the World Bank which serves as the AF Trustee informed that the Fund has continued receiving donations from developed countries governments and sub-national governments, with a cumulative donations amounting USD 344.76 million. As the meeting was about to conclude, the Board elected its new Chair, Mr. Michael Kracht (Germany), as well as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Accreditation Panel, Ms. Fatuma Mohamed Hussein (Kenya) and Ms. Yuka Greiler (Switzerland). It was agreed that the twenty-ninth session will take place on from 14<sup>th</sup> –17<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 and the thirtieth one from 10<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 in Bonn, Germany.

**You can read the full decisions and report of the AFB28 by the AF Secretariat at this [link](#).**



A view of Marrakech city in one evening during COP22. Marc Beckmann, 2016



## VI. Events calendar

01-03 February:

[Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation in Asia](#),  
New Delhi, India

27 Feb.-03 March:

[LEG Regional Training Workshop on NAPs for Anglo-phone African Least Developed Countries](#),  
Lilongwe, Malawi

07-09 March:

[15th Standing Committee on Finance Meeting](#),  
Bonn, Germany

07-10 March:

[31st meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group \(LEG\)](#), Bonn, Germany

07-10 March:

[11th meeting of the Adaptation Committee](#),  
Bonn, Germany

14-17 March:

[29th meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board](#),  
Bonn, Germany

21-24 March:

[5th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts](#), Bonn, Germany

21-24 March:

[Africa Learning Forum on Adaptation \(ALFA2017\)](#),  
Dakar, Senegal

04-06 April:

[Sixteenth meeting of the Green Climate Fund Board](#),  
Songdo, Republic of Korea

11-13 April:

[National Adaptation Plans Expo \(NAP Expo\)](#),  
Bonn, Germany

04-06 May:

[Resilient Cities - 8th Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation](#), Bonn, Germany

08-18 May:

[Bonn Climate Change Conference \(SBI 46\)](#),  
Bonn, Germany

08-18 May:

[The 5th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment](#),  
Bonn, Germany

08-18 May:

[Technical Expert Meeting on Adaptation - Enhancing the implementation of adaptation action](#), Bonn, Germany

23-27 May:

[Second Meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly](#), Nairobi, Kenya

June:

[11th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation \(CBA11\)](#), Kampala, Uganda

04-06 July:

[Seventeenth meeting of the Green Climate Fund Board](#),  
Songdo, Republic of Korea

04-08 September:

[16th Standing Committee on Finance Meeting](#),  
Bonn, Germany

03-05 October:

[Eighteenth meeting of the Green Climate Fund Board](#),  
Songdo, Republic of Korea

10-13 October:

[30th Adaptation Fund Board Meeting](#), Bonn, Germany

06-17 November:

[23rd United Nations Climate Change Conference \(COP23/CMP13\)](#), Bonn, Germany

## Want to contribute to the AFN newsletter?

Do you want to contribute to the AFN newsletter? Send an email to [affana@germanwatch.org](mailto:affana@germanwatch.org) and we will follow-up with you directly. You can contribute with an article, a photo, a personal testimony about your experience with climate change adaptation, or any relevant resource on the topic. **Contact us and let's support civil society work and engagement together!**

## Contacts

More information about the AF NGO Network on:

**[www.af-network.org](http://www.af-network.org)**

This website also contains resources such as the Germanwatch Adaptation Fund Project Tracker, briefings and reports on the meetings of the Adaptation Fund Board and other reports.



## Contact information:

AF NGO Network, c/o Germanwatch  
Julia Grimm, [grimm@germanwatch.org](mailto:grimm@germanwatch.org)  
Jean Paul Brice Affana, [affana@germanwatch.org](mailto:affana@germanwatch.org)  
[www.af-network.org](http://www.af-network.org)

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